

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system including a dedicated computer, said method comprising:

5 a scanning step to scan a plurality of images corresponding to a separate customer order from a scanner into a plurality of digital images, the scanner being connected to the dedicated computer by a first interface bus;

10 a processing step to process the plurality of digital images and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a record image; and

15 a writing step to write the record image by an image-recorder to a medium, the image-recorder being connected to the dedicated computer by a second interface bus;

20 wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to scan a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order from the scanner into a new plurality of digital images.

25 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the processing step is repeated to process the new plurality of digital images and to combine the processed new plurality of digital images into a new record image.

30 3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the writing step is repeated to write the new record image to a new medium by the image-recorder, wherein the writing step for the new medium image is initiated after completion of the writing step for the previous record image.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein each record image is stored in an image-queue prior to being written to each respective medium by the writing step.

5

5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the writing step includes the step of obtaining, from image-queue, the record image to be written to the medium.

10

6. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the image-queue is represented by an image-queue file.

15

7. A method according to Claim 1, further including the steps of generating a print index file containing a thumbnail representation of each of the plurality of digital images and sending the print index file to a printer to print a corresponding print index.

20

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the step of generating a print index file includes sending the print index file to a print queue and wherein the step of sending the print index file to the printer includes retrieving a next print index file from the print queue.

25

30

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the print queue is represented by a print queue file.

35

10. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the print index file is sent to the printer regardless of whether the record image corresponding to the plurality of digital images represented in

the print index file has been written to the medium in the writing step.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
5 the writing step includes generating a write status indicator which is used to indicate a success in the event that the record image is successfully written to the medium, and which is used to indicate an error in the event that the record image is not 10 successfully written to the medium.

12. A method according to Claim 11, wherein the writing step is not repeated for a new record image if the write status indicator indicates 15 an error.

13. A method according to Claim 11, wherein the writing step is repeated for the same record image if the write status indicator indicates 20 an error.

14. A method according to Claim 11, wherein the record image is compared to the medium at the end of the writing step to determine if the record image is successfully written to the medium. 25

15. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the first interface bus is a SCSI interface and the second interface bus is an IDE interface.

30 16. A method according to Claim 1, further including the step of adjusting each of the plurality of digital images which were scanned in from the scanner.

35 17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the adjustment includes cropping.

18. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the adjustment includes rotating.

5 19. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the adjustment includes a contrast  
adjustment.

10 20. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the adjustment includes a sharpness  
adjustment.

15 21. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the adjustment includes a color adjustment.

22. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein the adjustment includes image editing.

20 23. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein a thumbnail representation of each of the  
plurality of digital images is displayed on a  
monitor connected to the computer, and wherein each  
digital image is adjusted by a pointing device  
connected to the computer.

25 24. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the scanning step and processing step are performed  
in a second computer which is connected to the  
dedicated computer via a network, and the writing  
step is performed in the dedicated computer.

30 35 25. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
a second computer is connected to the dedicated  
computer, and wherein the scanning step and the  
processing step are performed in the dedicated  
computer and the writing step is performed in the  
second computer.

26. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a CD-ROM.

5 27. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a DVD.

28. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a digital tape.

10 29. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a diskette.

30. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a digital mini-disc.

15 31. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a memory card.

20 32. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a memory chip.

33. A method according to Claim 1, wherein  
the medium is a memory storage device.

25 34. A method for authoring a plurality of  
digital image records, each digital image record  
corresponding to a separate customer order, in a  
digital image record authoring system including a  
dedicated computer, said method comprising:

30 a scanning step to scan a plurality of  
images corresponding to a separate customer order  
from a scanner into a plurality of digital images,  
the scanner being connected to the dedicated  
computer by a first interface bus;

35 a processing step to process the plurality  
of digital images and to combine the processed  
plurality of digital images into a record image; and

5 a writing step to write the record image by an image-recorder to a medium, the image-recorder being connected to the dedicated computer by a second interface bus and the record image being passed from the dedicated computer to the image-recorder at a constant rate;

10 wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to scan a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order from the scanner into a new plurality 15 of digital images.

15 35. A method for authoring a plurality of digital image CD-ROMs, each digital image CD-ROM corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image CD-ROM authoring system including a dedicated computer, said method comprising:

20 a scanning step to scan a plurality of images corresponding to a separate customer order from a scanner into a plurality of digital images, the scanner being connected to the dedicated computer by a first interface bus;

25 an adjusting step to adjust each of the plurality of digital images which were scanned in from the scanner;

30 a generating step to generate a print index file containing a thumbnail representation of each of the adjusted plurality of digital images, the print index file for printing by a printer;

35 a processing step to process the plurality of digital images and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a CD-ROM image; and

a CD-writing step to write the CD-ROM image to a CD-ROM residing in a CD-recorder connected to the dedicated computer by a second interface bus;

35 wherein the scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the CD-writing step, to scan

5 a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order from the scanner into a new plurality of digital images, the processing step is repeated to process the new plurality of digital images and to combine the processed new plurality of digital images into a new CD-ROM image, and the CD-writing step is repeated to write the new CD-ROM image to a new CD-ROM placed in the CD-recorder after completion of the CD-writing step for the previous  
10 CD-ROM image.

15 36. A dedicated computer for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system comprised of the dedicated computer, a scanner connected to the dedicated computer by a first interface bus, and an image-recorder connected to the dedicated computer by a second interface bus,  
20 comprising:

25 a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 35; and

30 a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

35 37. Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system comprised of a dedicated computer, a scanner connected to the dedicated computer by a first interface bus, and an image-recorder connected to the dedicated computer by a second interface bus, said computer-executable

process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 35.

38. A computer-readable medium which  
5 stores computer-executable process steps, the  
computer-executable process steps for authoring a  
plurality of digital image records, each digital  
image record corresponding to a separate customer  
order, in a digital image record authoring system  
10 comprised of a dedicated computer, a scanner  
connected to the dedicated computer by a first  
interface bus, and an image-recorder connected to  
the dedicated computer by a second interface bus,  
said computer-executable process steps comprising  
15 process steps executable to perform a method  
according to any of Claims 1 to 35.